

10/537937 #2

IC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUN 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Applicant(s) : EGNER-WALTER, Bruno
 EDELE, Reinhard

Serial No. :
 Filed :
 Title : BALL PIN AND BALL JOINT COMPRISING
 ONE SUCH BALL PIN

Group :
 Docket : VAL 204 P2 - WDE0555/US

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b), Applicant(s) wishes to disclose the materials listed below and on the attached form PTO/SB/08A that the Examiner may find relevant to the examination of the above-identified patent application. Pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice of August 5, 2003, copies of issued U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent applications are not required and are not enclosed. The references listed below were cited by either the German Patent Office and by the International Searching Authority in corresponding priority applications.

As to foreign references, where possible Applicants have cited the corresponding U.S. patents in lieu of furnishing foreign language documents. Copies of any foreign patent references that do not have corresponding U.S. patents or non-patent reference materials are enclosed herewith.

U.S. Patent References:

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Issued</u> | <u>Inventor (s)</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 4,695,180 | 9/22/1997 | Saito | LINK COUPLING DEVICE |
| 5,284,397 | 2/8/1994 | Hayashi | JOINT APPARATUS |

Foreign and Any Corresponding U.S. Patents/Publications:

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Publication Patent</u> | <u>Publication Issue Date</u> | <u>Corresponding U.S. Patent/Publication</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| DE | 195 19 867 | 12/5/1996 | NONE |
| DE | 196 47 024 | 5/20/1998 | NONE |
| DE | 199 14 121 | 9/28/2000 | NONE |
| DE | 44 00 296 | 7/13/1995 | NONE |
| JP | 58013218 | 1/25/1983 | NONE |

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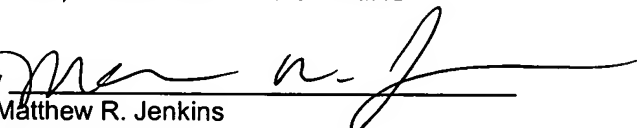
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b). By filing this statement, Applicant(s) is not making any representation as to whether any of the references referred to herein are material. Further, Applicant(s) cites these references without prejudice, and Applicant(s) reserves the right to contest the status of these references as prior art.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account No. 50-1287**. Applicant(s) hereby provides a general request for any extension of time which may be required at any time during the prosecution of the application. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fees which have not been previously paid for by check and which are required during the prosecution of this application to **Deposit Account No. 50-1287**. (Should Deposit Account No. 50-1287 be deficient, please charge any further deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 10-0220)

Respectfully submitted,

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June 7, 2005

Complete if Known

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name _____

Attorney Docket Number

VAL 204 P2

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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | DE 195 19 867 | 12/5/96 | Teves GmbH | | |
| | | DE 196 47 024 | 5/20/98 | Teves GmbH | | |
| | | DE 199 14 121 | 9/28/00 | Volkswagenwerk | | |
| | | DE 44 00 296 | 7/13/95 | Teves GmbH | | |
| | | JP 58 013218 | 1/25/83 | Mitsuba Electric | | |
| | | | | | | |

Date
Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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